

PCT

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

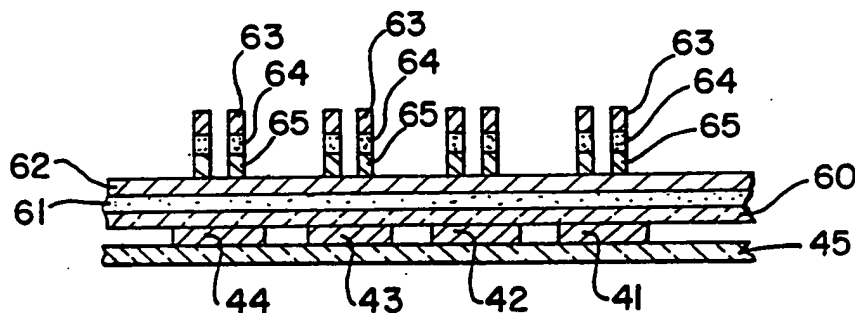


B49

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

<p>(51) International Patent Classification⁵ : C09K 19/00, G03C 5/00 G02F 1/13, B01D 61/42</p>	<p>A1</p>	<p>(11) International Publication Number: WO 92/21733 (43) International Publication Date: 10 December 1992 (10.12.92)</p>
<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/US91/03759 (22) International Filing Date: 30 May 1991 (30.05.91) (71) Applicant: COPYTELE, INC. [US/US]; 900 Walt Whitman Road, Huntington Station, NY 11746 (US). (72) Inventors: DISANTO, Frank, J. ; 27 Par Court, North Hills, NY 11030 (US). KRUSOS, Denis, A. ; 3 Middle Hollow Road, Lloyd Harbor, NY 11743 (US). SCHUBERT, Frederic, E. ; 18 Cordwood Path, Shoreham, NY 11786 (US). (74) Agent: PLEVY, Arthur, L. ; 146 Route 1 North, Edison, NJ 08817 (US).</p>		<p>(81) Designated States: AT (European patent), BE (European patent), CA, CH (European patent), DE (European patent), DK (European patent), ES (European patent), FR (European patent), GB (European patent), GR (European patent), IT (European patent), JP, LU (European patent), NL (European patent), SE (European patent). Published With international search report.</p>

(54) Title: METHODS OF FABRICATING DUAL ANODE, FLAT PANEL ELECTROPHORETIC DISPLAYS



(57) Abstract

There is disclosed methods for fabricating electrophoretic displays (10). Essentially the methods employ selective materials such as different metals (15, 18, 19, 20) which are capable of being etched by different etchants. In this manner, a laminate is provided to form a grid matrix which is insulated from a cathode matrix (41, 42, 43, 44) which grid matrix is also insulated from a second anode matrix (54, 55). The entire display utilizes a local or second anode and a remote anode (28) to further control pigment particle migration. The display (10) is fabricated by two methods both of which employ selective etching of the parallel line type of display electrodes which constitute a cathode, a grid and a local anode.

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AT	Austria	FI	Finland	MI	Mali
AU	Australia	FR	France	MN	Mongolia
BB	Barbados	GA	Gabon	MR	Mauritania
BE	Belgium	GB	United Kingdom	MW	Malawi
BF	Burkina Faso	GN	Guinea	NL	Netherlands
BG	Bulgaria	GR	Greece	NO	Norway
BJ	Benin	HU	Hungary	PL	Poland
BR	Brazil	IE	Ireland	RO	Romania
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	RU	Russian Federation
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	SD	Sudan
CG	Congo	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	SE	Sweden
CH	Switzerland	KR	Republic of Korea	SN	Senegal
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	LI	Liechtenstein	SU	Soviet Union
CM	Cameroon	LK	Sri Lanka	TD	Chad
CS	Czechoslovakia	LU	Luxembourg	TC	Togo
DE	Germany	MC	Monaco	US	United States of America
DK	Denmark	MG	Madagascar		
ES	Spain				

DescriptionMethods of Fabricating Dual Anode, Flat
Panel Electrophoretic Displays5 Technical Field

The present invention relates to electrophoretic display apparatus in general and more particularly to methods for fabricating such displays having a dual anode structure.

10

Background Art

A dual anode, flat panel, electrophoretic display apparatus has been described in copending application Serial No. 345,825 filed May 1, 1989 entitled Dual
15 Anode Flat Panel Electrophoretic Display Apparatus for Frank J. DiSanto and Denis A. Krusos, the inventors herein and assigned to Copytele Inc., the assignee herein. That application describes an electrophoretic display which has a grid cathode matrix arrangement
20 consisting of a first plurality of conductive lines which are transverse to said first plurality. Located with respect to the grid and cathode are first and second anode structures. The first anode is removed from the second with the second anode overlying the
25 grid lines of the display and insulated therefrom. The second anode is biased to implement typical hold and erase modes independent of the first anode and the display structure as indicated in the application exhibits many advantages when compared with prior art
30 displays.

The electrophoretic display (EPID) is well known and there exist many patents and articles in the prior art which describe operation and characteristics as well as describing methods of fabricating such
35 displays. The following patents are illustrative of

prior art devices and approaches. These patents issued in the name of Frank J. DiSanto and Denis A. Krusos, the inventors herein. Apart from the patents to be described below, there are of course many references which were cited in the prosecution of these patents as well as additional references which were cited in the background of these patents. Many of the techniques and methods of fabricating such displays are disclosed in the patents that follow, as well as in the additional references as indicated.

U.S. Patent 4,655,897 issued on April 7, 1987 entitled Electrophoretic Display Panels and Associated Methods describes a typical electrophoretic display apparatus utilizing an X-Y matrix consisting of grid and cathode lines which are insulated one from the other and which are associated with an anode electrode. The space between the grid and cathode lines and the anode electrode is filled with an electrophoretic dispersion. The patent describes techniques for making such displays as well as suitable dispersions and materials for use with such displays.

U.S. Patent No. 4,732,830 issued on March 22, 1988 entitled Electrophoretic Display Panels and Associated Methods describes methods for making electrophoretic displays as well as describing display construction and operation.

U.S. Patent No. 4,742,345 issued on May 3, 1988 entitled Electrophoretic Display Panel Apparatus and Methods Therefore describes improved electrophoretic display panels exhibiting improved alignment and contrast as well as describing circuitry for use with such a display and methods for fabricating such a display.

-3-

U.S. Patent No. 4,746,917 issued on May 24, 1988 entitled Method and Apparatus for Operating Electrophoretic Displays Between a Display and a Non-Display Mode describes various biasing techniques for operating electrophoretic displays to provide writing, erasing as well as operating the display during a display and non-display mode.

U.S. Patent No. 4,722,820 issued on September 20, 1988 entitled Monolithic Flat Panel Display Apparatus describes methods and apparatus for fabricating flat panel displays employing electrophoretic principles as well structures to enable such displays to be biased and driven by additional circuitry.

Thus, as one can see, an important consideration of the prior art is to provide an improved display with increased contrast, faster operating time, and more reliable performance. As indicated in the above-noted copending application, a particularly disturbing problem which occurs in electrophoretic displays results in the appearance of a bright "flash" emanating from the display during the ERASE mode. This "flash" while occurring over a relatively short period is perfectly visible. The "flash" appears disturbing to many individuals who view the display and is caused by the following phenomenon. For proper operation of the electrophoretic display, the amount of pigment in the suspension is considerably greater than the pigment required to give a suitable background when the panel is in a HOLD condition. The term HOLD is well known in the art, and the electrophoretic panel is placed in a HOLD condition prior to writing the display. In this manner the HOLD condition is achieved when the anode is at a high

positive voltage, the grid is at a low voltage, and the cathode is at a high voltage.

Typically, the anode would be at a voltage for example of 200 volts with the grid at a lower voltage as for example -12 volts with the cathode at a high voltage which would be +15 volts. With these voltages on the typical prior art electrophoretic display, the display is in the so-called HOLD condition. This HOLD condition is implemented prior to the WRITE mode during which mode new information is written into the display. The excess pigment during the HOLD condition is at the surface of the anode which is at the highest potential with respect to any other of the electrodes. To ERASE the display, the anode is made negative and all the pigment leaves the anode and is at the surface of the grid and cathode. During ERASE, the anode, for example, would be placed at -200 volts. Hence, during the ERASE mode, all the pigment leaves the anode and is now at the surface of the grid and cathode accordingly. The cathode side of the flat display during the ERASE mode is considerably brighter than it is during the HOLD causing a bright "flash" to appear on the display even when the ERASE time is extremely short.

The "flash" occurs between frames and may exist every 20 to 30 milliseconds caused by the change in brightness between the HOLD and the ERASE mode. It is, of course, desirable to eliminate this bright "flash" so that the display appears more uniform and stable.

Hence, the above-noted copending application describes the addition of a second anode which is interposed between the original anode of the electrophoretic display and the cathode-to-grid

-5-

matrix. The second anode aides in preventing this flash by allowing the pigment to be selectively controlled.

5 This present application describes methods for fabricating a dual anode display. The methods to be described shows a second anode or an additional anode which in one embodiment is designed to be parallel with the grid structure and in another embodiment is transverse or perpendicular to the grid structure.
10 These methods include the selective deposition of different materials such as metals and insulators together with the use of selective etches in order to achieve the desired results.

15 Disclosure of the Invention

A method of completing fabrication of an electrophoretic display after a plurality of cathode conductor lines indicative of an X matrix have been formed on a planar glass sheet, comprising the steps
20 of coating the cathode conductor lines with a first insulating layer of photoresist, coating the first insulating layer with a first layer of silicon dioxide, coating a first layer of metal on said layer of silicon dioxide, coating said first layer of metal
25 with a second layer of photoresist, coating said second layer of photoresist with a second layer of silicon dioxide, coating said second layer of silicon dioxide with a second layer of metal capable of being etched by a different etchant than said first, coating
30 said second layer of metal with a third layer of metal capable of being etched by a different etchant from said first and second layer of metal, coating said third layer of metal with a fourth layer of metal capable of being etched by a different etchant than

said first, second and third layers of metal, coating
said fourth layer of metal with a third layer of
photoresist, treating said fourth layer of photoresist
to photolithographically form a matrix of lines
5 transverse to said cathode conductor lines and
thereafter selectively etching each layer of material
until channels separate each of the lines of said
matrix wherein there are first and metal structures
insulated from each other and from the cathode
10 structure, coating the treated structure with a layer
of silicon dioxide, removing said layer of silicon
dioxide as coating said fourth metal layer with said
fourth metal layer.

15 Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 is a partial cross-sectional view showing
an electrophoretic display useful in describing
certain steps in the fabrication of such a display;

20 Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view depicting an
additional step in the fabrication of such a display;

Fig. 3 is a top plan view of an electrophoretic
display fabricated according to a different method
according to this invention; and

25 Fig. 4 is a cross-sectional view of the display
of Fig. 3.

Best Mode for Carrying Out The Invention

Referring to FIG. 1, there is shown a cross-
sectional view of an electrophoretic display 10
30 constructed according to the teachings of this
invention. It is immediately noted that the cross-
sectional view of the display of FIG. 1 includes
structure resulting from certain of the processing
steps which are not complete.

-7-

It is believed that the configuration shown in FIG. 1 is necessary in order to fully understand the invention. The unique part of this particular display is the configuration as well as the method of producing the second or additional anode. The additional anode appears between the cathode 12 and the remote anode which is a conventional anode designated by reference numeral 28 in FIG. 2.

As seen from FIG. 2, the remote anode 28 is deposited upon a layer of glass 29. The remote anode 28 for example may be an extremely thin layer of indium-tin-oxide (ITO) which is deposited upon the layer of glass 29.

As one will further understand, the electrophoretic display is described in many of the prior patents as indicated above, and has a viewing area which includes a bottom glass sheet 11. Disposed upon sheet 11 are a plurality of cathode lines 12. These cathode lines are directed in a horizontal or vertical direction and are parallel to one another to form a matrix or grid of lines. A cross matrix, which is perpendicular to the cathode lines, consists of a series of parallel metal grid lines 15. These metal grid lines exist in prior art electrophoretic displays. The grid lines are separated from the cathode by means of an insulator material. This may be a dual layer of insulator material. A first layer consists of an insulator 13 which for example is a photoresist material such as FSC-L or FSC-M which essentially are novalac resins or phenolic resins. These resins are available as photoresist materials from a company called Shipley Products.

As seen in FIG. 1 and as will be further explained, the layer of photoresist or insulator 13

has deposited on the surface thereof a layer of silicon dioxide (SiO_2) 14. The layer of silicon dioxide is deposited on the layer of photoresist and thereafter a layer of metal 15 which constitutes the grid electrode is deposited upon the layer of silicon dioxide. In the construction shown in FIG. 1 and as will be further explained, deposited on top of the grid layer 15 is an additional layer 16 of photoresist which has deposited thereon an additional layer 17 of silicon dioxide. On top of the layer of silicon dioxide is a first layer of metal 18, a second layer of metal 19 and a third layer of metal 20. It is important that metal layers 15, 18, 19 and 20 be fabricated from metal materials which are capable of being etched by different selective etchants.

For example, such metal materials may comprise gold, aluminum, titanium-tungsten alloy, zirconium as well as chrome. In this particular instance, the grid electrode layer 15 may be fabricated from chrome while the metal layers 18 and 19 may be an alloy of chrome and aluminum which will etch for example, by means of a different etchant other than the chrome layer. The above description indicates the deposition of separate layers which is in fact the case. The structure shown in FIG. 1 results after the steps of selective etching have been implemented as will be explained.

As one will see, the second anode which will include metal layers 18 and 19, and the grid structure as 15 are perpendicular to the cathode lines 12 and essentially the grid electrode 15 is parallel to and in line with the second anode conductor lines. Before describing the exact process by which the structure of FIG. is fabricated, a few comments will be made concerning the operation of the same. As one can

-9-

understand, the grid lines 15 which are separated from the cathode lines by means of the photoresist layer 13, and the layer of silicon dioxide 14 are disposed transverse to the cathode lines 12 and spatially intersect each cathode line to provide an X-Y matrix arrangement whereby a typical pixel area is accessed by addressing a grid and cathode line thereby providing a desired potential at the intersection between the two lines. This potential causes the migration of electrophoretic particles which are suspended in the electrophoretic suspension 30 and which particles migrate from the grid and cathode structure to the anode 28 (FIG. 2). The anode 28 is a very thin layer of metal as ITO deposited on a planar glass member 29 according to prior art teachings.

Typically, the thickness of the insulated areas as 13 and 16 are approximately 3 microns with the layers of silicon dioxide as for example, layers 14 and 17 being about 2000 Angstroms. In the structure shown in FIG. 1 the local anode which will be further described is of the same configuration as the grid structure. A local anode metal conductor line which eventually comprises metals 18 and 19 for example is separated from the grid line 15 by the insulating layer 16 and the layer of silicon dioxide 17. Thus, there are as many anode lines as there are grid lines. Each segment of the anode can have the same exact configuration as the associated grid segment. It is understood that the grid line can comprise a tine configuration as known in the prior art and such a configuration may or may not be used for the local anode lines. Hence, the grid format may be two or more tines with the anode line being a single line or a duplicate tine configuration.

For example, U.S. Patent No. 4,742,345 describes a grid structure fabricated with respect to the cathode structure in a tine configuration. Thus, one can utilize such a configuration to form the grid structure and therefore the anode structure. The advantages of such arrangements have been fully described in U.S. Patent No. 4,742,345. In this manner, and as explained in the above-noted copending application, it is further seen that the local anode structure may consist of a plurality of parallel lines each of which is associated with a grid line, and with each of the parallel lines being dimensioned and congruent with each of the associated grid lines as 15. The biasing of the various electrodes as shown in FIG. 1 has also been explained in detail in the above-noted copending application. Thus, the biasing of each electrode in HOLD, ERASE and WRITE modes has been explained as well as the movement of the pigment and the advantages of the display.

The methods of fabricating a dual anode display to be described herein employ alternate approaches. The cross-sectional view depicted in FIG. 1 shows certain steps in the fabrication of the display. As indicated, numeral 11 references a planar glass sheet. The glass sheet or plate 11 acts to provide a port through which a viewer of the display may discern image information set forth therein. The glass plate 11 is preferably coated with an extremely thin layer of indium-tin-oxide (ITO) as available as described in many of the above-noted patents. The layer of ITO 12 is relatively thin approximately in the range of 300 Angstroms in thickness so that the glass plate 11 retains its relative transparent characteristics. The cathode lines 12 are etched from the ITO layer which

-11-

is overcoated on the glass plate 11. This may be achieved as will be readily appreciated by those of ordinary skill in the art through conventional photo-etching or engraving techniques. Hence, a physical mask bearing representations of the cathode conductors as well as associated contact pads is employed to form an image of the plurality of cathode conductors 12 on the glass plate 11 and thereafter portions of the ITO coating not corresponding to the image are removed. More particularly, the glass plate 11 bearing the ITO layer may be initially overcoated with a photoresistive layer of any conventional form and thereafter masked having a conductive pattern associated with the plurality of cathode lines 12 displaced on the photoresistive layer. The glass plate is then exposed to ultraviolet light through the mask and developed.

The pattern remains and eventually is transformed into a plurality of cathode lines. Hence, the cathode is conventionally fabricated by means of prior art techniques leaving the glass layer 11 having on the surface thereof a plurality of cathode lines or column lines 12. One can gain further information regarding the construction utilizing the mask and related procedures by reference to U.S. Patent No. 4,742,345.

After this step, the entire structure is coated with an insulating layer of FSC-L or FSC-M. These are photoresist materials as above indicated and are novalac or phenolic resins. The insulating layers 13 are spun onto the surface of the glass plate having the cathode structure 12. Contrary to FIG. 1, an entire layer or coating 13 as shown by the line 31 is deposited upon the surface of the glass plate 11 having the cathode pattern 12 impressed thereon. The

entire surface is thus covered. Next a thin layer of silicon dioxide 14 is placed on the entire surface of the insulative layer 13. Again, this is done as a single coat. The layer of silicon dioxide is extremely thin and may be, for example, of a magnitude of 2000 Angstroms with the layer of photoresist being about 3 to 5 microns. After depositing the layer of silicon dioxide 14, a first layer of metal 15 such as aluminum is then deposited upon the silicon dioxide layer. The aluminum can be deposited by many well known techniques such as vapor deposition and so on. After depositing the layer of aluminum, another layer 16 of FSC-L or FSC-M is deposited on the aluminum layer. This layer 16 then has deposited on the surface another layer of silicon dioxide. Then three different metals are deposited on the layer of silicon dioxide. There is first deposited a layer of metal 18 followed by a layer of metal 19, followed by a layer of metal 20. Each of these metals must not be capable of being etched using the same etchant, or capable of being etched by the same etchant as used for the metal deposited on the first layer of FSC-L or FSC-M as layer 15 which is the grid layer. In any event, selective etchants employed for different metals are well known in the art as well as the different metals which are capable of being etched by using different etches. After the last layer of metal 20 is deposited, a coating of photoresist 31 is then spun onto the uppermost layer 20. The photoresist layer 31 is shown as a full layer as compared to the column structures depicted for the remaining portions of the grid. It is understood that the lines which are directed through each of the aluminum layers indicate

-13-

that total laminate is formed prior to the etchant steps.

5 The photoresist layer 31 is then exposed to a mask which is essentially similar in design to the grid mask and consists of a plurality of parallel lines and is placed transverse to the cathode structures. Thus the mask is used to expose the top photoresist layer 31 in order to eventually provide the column areas as indicated by reference numerals 10 33, 34 and 35. The photoresist layer 31 is then developed whereby the uppermost layer of the metal 20 is etched using an appropriate etchant for that layer and thus forming a first portion of the channel 36. The next two layers of metal 18 and 19 are etched 15 using appropriate etchants which selectively attack that layer thus forming the further channels 37 and 38. The layer of silicon dioxide 17 is plasma etched using the metal layers as 18, 19 and 20 as a mask, thus forming the next portion of the channel or 20 depression 39. The insulating layer 16 is then plasma etched completely down to the first layer of metal 15 thus forming the next portion of the channel 40. Then the first layer of metal 15 is then etched using an appropriate etchant for that layer forming the next 25 portion of the channel 41. The layer of silicon dioxide between the layer 15 and the insulating layer 13 between the first layer of metal 15 and the cathode 12 is plasma etched.

30 Referring to FIG. 2, after the above noted procedure, one now has the upstanding vertical columns as shown separated by channels. Next the entire structure in FIG. 1 coated with a layer of silicon dioxide which layer is applied to the entire structure. Then using an appropriate etchant, the

upper most layer of metal is removed thereby removing the silicon dioxide covering the metal layer 20 as well the metal layer while leaving the metal layer 19 exposed. The side surfaces as well as the spacing between the side surfaces are all covered with an extremely thin layer of silicon dioxide 40. Then utilizing appropriate insulating spacers the anode which includes glass plate 29 and the remote anode structure 28 is attached to the treated structure. At the same time leads are made available not only for the second anode which consists now of metal layers 18 and 19 but also for the original anode is ITO layer 28. Thus as one can understand, the cell is now ready for accepting driver chips which are cemented and bonded to the glass plate in the usual manner and as for example described in U.S. Patent 4,772,820 as indicated above.

It has been determined that by providing a layer of silicon dioxide on the peripheral walls of each of the additional grid and second anode structure, one achieves extreme reliable performance in regard to the device.

Referring to FIG. 3 there is shown a top plan view of a partial section of an electrophoretic display made according to a second implementation. The top plan view of FIG. 3 show the structure prior to a final coating of silicon dioxide. Essentially, as seen from FIG. 3, the cathode lines which are deposited as described above, are designated by references numerals 41, 42 and 43. Disposed on top of the cathode lines and insulate therefrom are separate grid tine structures as 50, 51 and 53. The three tine structures 50, 51 and 53 represent for example, a single grid line. Aligned parallel with the cathodes

-15-

are the second anode lines designated by reference numerals 54 and 55 as associated with the cathode line 44. As will be explained the grid lines as 50, 51 and 53 are fabricated from a different metal than the second anode lines 54 and 55, constitute two lines for each cathode but may be more than two. The grid lines constitute three lines as 50, 51 and 53. The implementation of the display as well as the fabrication of the display can be best described by referring both to FIG. 3 and FIG. 4. As seen in FIG. 4, the bottom layer 45 which consists of glass has deposited thereon the ITO cathode layers as 41, 42, 43 and 44. The cathode matrix is fabricated as described above and is formed from a single layer of ITO which covers the entire glass sheet which ITO is then suitably etched or engraved to produce individual parallel cathode lines as 41, 42, 43 and 44. Thus the construction of the cathode is implemented utilizing the usual mask and procedures as described above. The next thing that occurs is that a complete layer 60 of FSC-L or FSC-M is deposited on and coats the entire cathode structure. Then a layer of silicon dioxide 61 is vapor deposited on or oxidized on the insulating layer 60. The next step in the procedure is to then deposit a layer of metal such as chrome which is layer 62 and deposited on the silicon dioxide layer 61. This layer of metal 62 constitutes the grid structure. A layer of photoresist is then spun on the metal layer 62. This layer is not shown. In any event, the layer of photoresist is then exposed by the grid mask in the usual manner and hence, one produces the grid line pattern as for example, 50, 51 and 53 on the photoresist layer which is spun on the metal layer 62. The grid mask is used to expose the photoresist in the

usual manner. After developing the photoresist, the metal is etched using a suitable etchant. As indicated, the metal layer 62 is chrome and one would then employ a chrome etchant. The photoresist layer is now stripped off in an appropriate solvent. The layer of silicon dioxide 61 is now plasma etched with the etched metal 62 serving as a mask. This therefore develops the appropriate grid structure. Next an insulating layer of FSC-L or FSC-M is deposited on the patterned metal layer and designated by referenced numeral 65. The insulative layer 65 is now coated with a thin layer of silicon dioxide 4. Deposited on top of the layer of silicon dioxide 64 is a second metal layer 63 which may be of a different material than the first layer. This layer 63 consists of two metal layers with a first layer of metal closest to the silicon dioxide layer 64 being the same as the first layer of metal 62. Each layer is capable of being etched by a different etchant. A layer of photoresist is now spun on the uppermost metal layer and completely covers the same.

It is understood that while the layers 63, 64 and 65 are shown as upstanding columns, it is expressly understood that these are distinct layers. After a top layer of photoresist is spun on the uppermost metal layer, a mask including lines similar to but not necessarily the same as the grid is placed on a photoresist such that the pattern is parallel to the cathode as 41 and 42 and perpendicular to the grid as grid line 62. After developing the photoresist, both metal layers are etched using appropriate etchants. The silicon dioxide layer 64 is plasma etched using the metal layers as composite layer 63 as a mask. Both the first and second layers of FSC-L or FSC-M are

-17-

plasma etched down to the cathode as seen in the top view. Using an appropriate solvent, any residue from the plasma etching is removed. Then a coating of silicon dioxide is applied to the entire structure.

5 Again, using an appropriate etchant, the uppermost layer of metal is removed thereby removing the silicon dioxide covering the metal and leaving the second layer of metal exposed. Using appropriate insulator spacers the remote anode is attached to the structure

10 making sure that a lead is made available for connecting to the anode. The second layer may be connected with all leads in parallel, with each lead individually driven or with leads being driven in groups. The cell is now ready for accepting driver

15 chips cemented and bonded in the usual manner.

Claims

1. A method of completing fabrication of an electrophoretic display after a plurality of cathode conductor lines indicative of an X matrix have been formed on a planar glass sheet, comprising the steps of:

5 coating the cathode conductor lines with a first insulating layer of photoresist,

 coating the first insulating layer with a first layer of silicon dioxide,

10 costing first layer of metal on said layer of silicon dioxide,

 coating said first layer of metal with a second layer of photoresist,

15 coating said second layer of photoresist with a second layer of silicon dioxide,

 coating said second layer of silicon dioxide with a second layer of metal capable of being etched by a different etchant than said first,

20 coating said second layer of metal with a third layer of metal capable of being etched by a different etchant from said first and second layer of metal,

 coating said third layer of metal with a fourth layer of metal capable of being etched by a different etchant than said first, second and third layers of metal,

25 coating said fourth layer of metal with a third layer of photoresist,

30 treating said fourth layer of photoresist to photolithographically form a matrix of lines transverse to said cathode conductor lines and thereafter selectively etching each layer of material until channels separate each of the lines of said matrix wherein there are first and second metal

structures insulated from each other and from the
35 cathode structure,
coating the treated structure with a layer of
silicon dioxide,
removing said layer of silicon dioxide as coating
said fourth metal layer with said fourth metal layer.

2. The method according to Claim 1 further including the step of placing an anode plate parallel to said anode, cathode and grid matrices.

3. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of coating with an insulating layer of photoresist is coating with a phenolic resin.

4. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said first metal is chrome.

5. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said second metal is aluminum.

6. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said third metal is an aluminum chrome alloy.

7. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said fourth metal is an alloy of titanium and tungsten.

8. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said layers of silicon dioxide are about 2000 Angstroms thick.

9. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said layer of photoresist are between 3 to 5 microns thick.

10. The method according to Claim 1, wherein selectively etching includes etching said layers of silicon dioxide and said layers of photoresist by plasma etching.

11. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the steps of coating with a photoresist insulating layer includes spinning said photoresist on said layer.

12. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the metal electrode structure indicative of the grid matrix comprises a plurality of grid lines with each line comprising at least two tine members.

13. The method according to Claim 1, wherein one metal structure has lines parallel to the cathode lines, while the other metal structure has lines transverse to the cathode lines.

14. A method for fabricating an electrophoretic display of the type having an X-Y matrix for grid and cathode operation, comprising the steps of:

- depositing a first thin layer of a
- 5 conductive metal on a carrier plate of glass,
- etching said layer to form a line pattern
- indicative of an X cathode matrix,
- depositing a first insulating layer of a
- photoresist resin on said X cathode matrix,
- 10 depositing a first layer of silicon dioxide
- on said first layer of photoresist resin,

depositing a second layer of a conductive metal on said layer of silicon dioxide,
depositing a second insulating layer of a photoresist resin on said second metal layer,
15 exposing said second layer of photoresist with a Y grid matrix mask,
developing said photoresist according to said Y grid mask,
20 etching said second layer of said conductive metal to form said Y grid matrix,
removing the remainder of said second layer of photoresist,
etching said layer of silicon dioxide with said etched second layer of conductive metal serving
25 as a mask,
depositing a third layer of photoresist resin on said etched second layer,
depositing a second layer of silicon dioxide on said third layer of photoresist,
30 depositing a first anode metal layer on said layer of silicon dioxide,
depositing a second different anode metal layer on said first anode metal layer,
depositing a fourth layer of a photoresist
35 resin on said second different metal layer,
treating said fourth layer of photoresist to photolithographically form an anode matrix of lines parallel to said Y grid matrix and perpendicular to said X cathode matrix,,
40 etching said first and second anode layers,
covering said structure with a thin layer of silicon dioxide and etching away said second layer of anode metal leaving said first anode layer to provide

an additional matrix designated as an anode matrix for
45 said display.

15. The method according to Claim 14 further including the steps of placing an anode plate parallel to said anode, cathode and grid matrices.

16. The method according to Claim 14, wherein said first thin layer of a conductive metal is indium-tin oxide (ITO).

17. The method according to Claim 14, wherein said second layer of metal is chrome.

18. The method according to Claim 14, wherein said first anode metal layer is aluminum with said second anode metal layer being chrome.

19. The method according to Claim 14, wherein the step of depositing a photoresist resin on said X cathode matrix is spinning said resin on said X cathode matrix.

20. The method according to Claim 14 wherein the steps of etching said layer of silicon dioxide is plasma etching said layer.

1/2

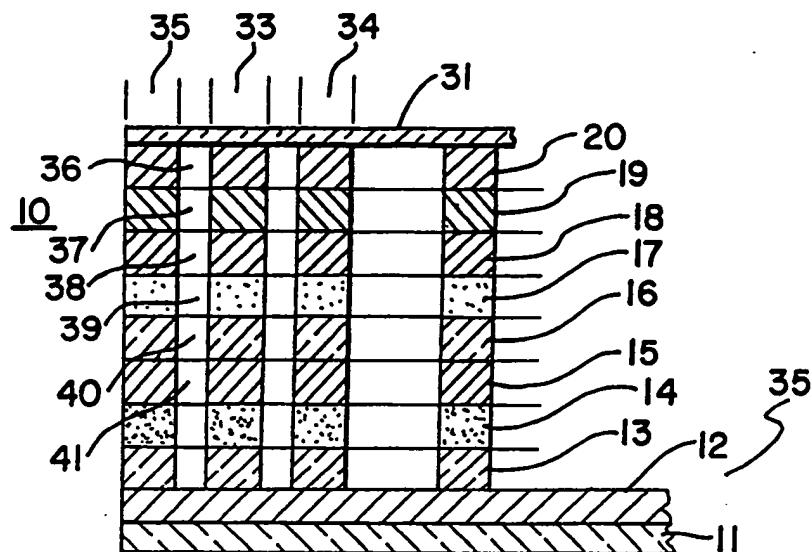


FIG. 1

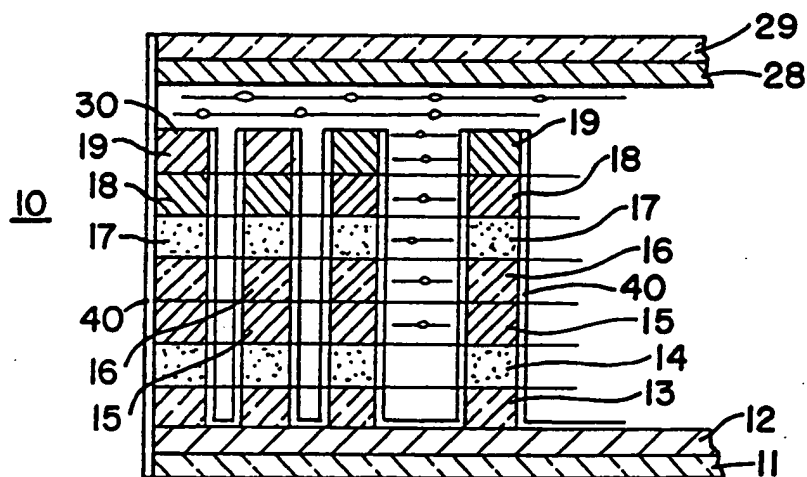


FIG. 2

2/2

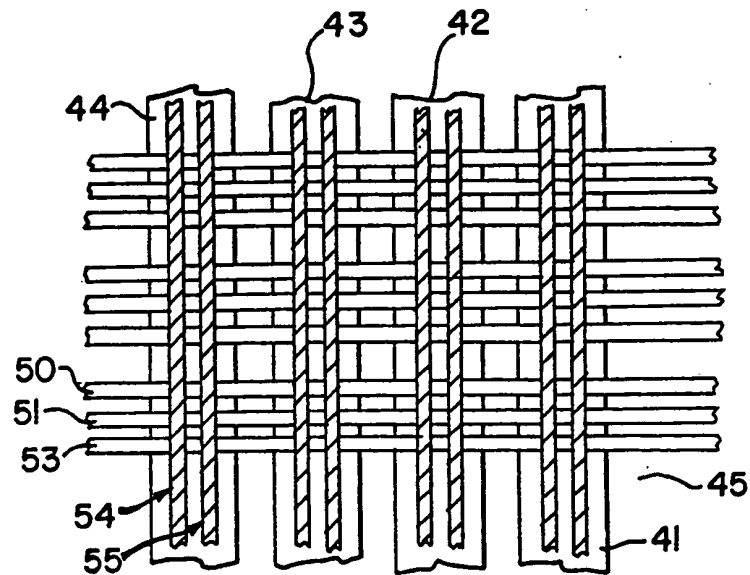


FIG. 3

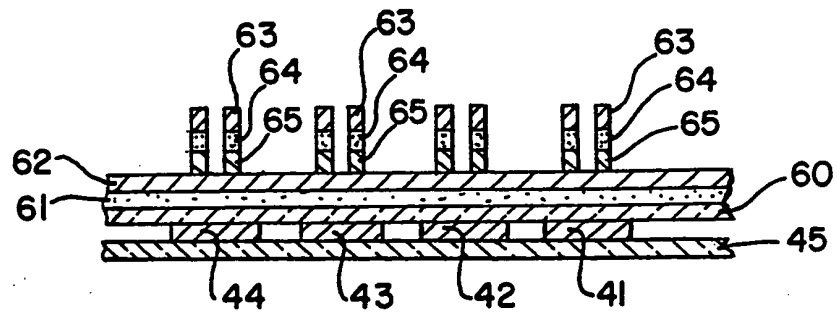


FIG. 4

SUBSTITUTE SHEET

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No. PCT/US91/03759

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (If several classification symbols apply, indicate all) ⁶		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC IPC (5): C09K 19/00; G03C 5/00; G02F 1/13; B01D 61/42 U.S. CL. 430/20,394,312,314,316,318,319,329; 350/333,336,344,339R; 204/299R; 428/1		
II. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum Documentation Searched ⁷		
Classification System	Classification Symbols	
U.S.	430/20,312,314,316,318,319,329,394; 350/333,336,344,339R; 204/299R; 428/1	
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched ⁸		
III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT ⁹		
Category ⁹	Citation of Document, ¹¹ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹²	Relevant to Claim No. ¹³
A	US, A, 4,772,820 (DiSANTO) 20 SEPTEMBER 1988 See entire document.	1-20
A	US, A, 4,850,919 (DiSANTO) 25 JULY 1989 See entire document.	1-20
A	US, A, 4,732,830 (DiSANTO) 22 MARCH 1988 See entire document.	1-20
A	US, A, 4,680,103 (BEILIN SOLOMON I.) 14 JULY 1987 Claims 9-15.	1-20
A	US, A, 4,218,302 (DALISA) 19 AUGUST 1980 See entire document.	1-20
A	US, A, 4,655,897 (DiSANTO) 07 APRIL 1987 See entire document.	1-20
A	US, A, 4,522,472 (LIEBERT) 11 JUNE 1985 Claims 1-10.	1-20
A	US, A, 4,203,106 (DALISA) 13 MAY 1980 See entire document.	1-20
A	US, A, 3,668,106 (OTA) 06 JUNE 1972 Figures 1-12.	1-20
<p>¹⁰ Special categories of cited documents:</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> <p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.</p> <p>"A" document member of the same patent family</p>		
IV. CERTIFICATION		
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search	Date of Mailing of this International Search Report	
30 JULY 1991	20 AUG 1991	
International Searching Authority	Signature of Authorized Officer	
ISA/US	Thomas R. Neville Thomas R. Neville	

This Page Blank (uspio)